United Nations E/C.2/2009/2/Add.15

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
23 October 2008

Original: English

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2009 regular session
19-28 January 2009

Quadrennial reports for the period 2004-2007 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31*

Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Bischöfliches Hilfswerk Misereor

(Special; 2004)

Part I. Introduction

Misereor was founded in 1958 as an agency 'to combat hunger and disease in the world'. In its capacity as an overseas development agency of the Catholic Church in Germany, it aims at promoting development, fighting poverty worldwide, liberating people form injustice, exercising solidarity with the poor and the persecuted, in order to create 'one world'. Misereor is mandated to fight the causes of hardship and misery as manifested chiefly in countries of Asia, Africa and Central and Latin America in the forms of hunger, disease, poverty and other forms of human suffering. Respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights - civil and political as well as economic, social and cultural – are the cornerstone to enable people to live in human dignity, to live 'free from fear and want'. Misereor, therefore, has a defined human rights policy and follows a human rights approach in its development cooperation.

The assistance Misereor provides is designed to stimulate and support self-help and pave the way for sustained improvement in the living conditions of the poor. It is available in principle to any human being in distress, irrespective of ethnic origin, gender, religion or nationality. Misereor does usually not send own staff or development workers to countries of the global South, but supports partner organizations from those countries. Being the largest German non-governmental development organization Misereor is, however, not only a partner in development projects in Asia, Africa and Central and Latin America, but also carries out development education and lobby and advocacy work in the North. The organization keeps the German public and politicians informed about living conditions of people living in poverty in Africa, Asia and Central and Latin America and suggests ways and means of exercising practical solidarity. For example, Misereor provides working material for parishes, solidarity movements and 'one-world-groups', as well as specialised briefings for German government ministers and the German parliament, as well as for politicians at the level of the European Union, other regional intergovernmental bodies and the United Nations. Misereor takes part in national and international conferences and networks with other non-governmental organizations and actively participates in multi-stakeholder round tables.

Misereor's work has two main pillars: helping those who are in need to lead a life of dignity, and addressing the structural causes of poverty and human rights violations.

Part II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

2005: participation of two representatives of the organisation in the 61st session of the Commission on Human Rights, Geneva, Switzerland, 14 March to 22 April 2005, as well as accreditation of a long-standing partner from Nepal. The representatives lobbied for a United Nation's mission with respect to the establishment of an Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Nepal. One representative also lobbied for an improved international accountability of the business sector in matters of human rights. A partner organization from Brazil took part in a side-event, organised by Amnesty International and others, on the issue.

Together with an experienced partner organisation from the Philippines, the participant lobbied for a United Nations Convention on Involuntary and Enforced Disappearances.

2006: accreditation and participation of a long-standing partner from Nepal in the 62nd session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, 13-27 March, Geneva, Switzerland. A staff member from the Misereor head office in Aachen also participated in the above mentioned session to lobby on business and human rights issues.

2006: a Misereor staff member accompanied two partners from Zambia to the 36th session of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (25 April to 6 May 2006, Geneva, Switzerland) and presented a shadow report on Zambia. Additional lobbying meetings with representatives from governments, the International Labour Organization and with the World Health Organization were organised. Recommendations of the Committee were later followed up by the partner organizations in Zambia.

2007: a representative of the organisation attended the 5th session of the United Nation Human Rights Council, 11-18 June. The representative observed the new working mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, lobbied for the continuation of strong special procedures and on business and human rights issues and took part in a side-event on the same issue.

2007: 39th session of the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (5 – 23 November, Geneva, Switzerland):

a) A representative of the organisation accompanied and supported partner organisations that presented a shadow report on human rights violations in the Pacific region of Colombia to some members of the Committee during a side-event. Additional lobby-meetings were arranged with the International Labour Organization, amongst others.

b) Two other representatives of the organisation participated in the above mentioned Committee meeting and supported partner organisations in their presentation of a shadow-report on Paraguay, focussing on the human rights violations occurring from the pollution of small-scale farms and indigenous communities by pesticides in 10 states in Paraguay. The attendants organised and participated in additional lobby-meetings with, amongst others, the International Labour Organization and the World Health Organization.

2007: Working group 5 'Access and Benefit Sharing' of the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, 8-12 October, Montreal, Canada. The participant followed and observed the negotiations, lobbied European delegates and participated in the organisation of a side-event.

2007: 13th session of the United Nations Climate Change Conference, 3 – 14 December, Bali, Indonesia: The participant lobbied for climate justice and, as part of this activity, participated in the preparation and carrying out of a side event. The attendant also participated in the Climate Action Network (CAN) meetings. Through media work the participant raised awareness in the German public regarding the urgent need for effective political measures to halt the climate change.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

A representative of the reporting organization attended the 58th Annual Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organizations Conference at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, 7 – 9 September 2005.

Throughout the reporting period, the organization has cooperated with and supported a number of Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council, respectively the former Human Rights Commission. For instance, a good working relationship was established with the former Special Rapporteur on Housing. The organization also funded partner organizations so they were able to participate in the regional consultation of the Special Representative on Business and Human Rights in Johannesburg, South Africa, 27 – 28 March 2006. The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Extrajudicial, Summary and Arbitrary Executions, on his visit to the Philippines on 12 – 21 February 2007, was supported by a Philippine partner organization of the reporting organization. A Philippine project partner was supported by the reporting organization to take part in the 51st session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, 26 February - 9 March 2007, United Nations Headquarters, New York.

iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals

The organization contributed to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the four geographical regions: Central America, South America, Africa and Asia. For instance in 2007, the organization funded 287 projects in these continents concerning the issues of access to work, better working conditions, agricultural projects and projects on the right to food, worth 31.4 Million Euros; 232 projects on education and culture (primary, secondary and vocational training), worth 20.7 Million Euros, 127 heath projects, worth 10.9 Million Euros and 86 projects on living conditions and environmental issues, worth 10.5 Million Euros. The largest number of projects funded (467 projects, worth 48.0 Million Euros) was concerned with the societal framework of poverty, including a large number of human rights projects. World AIDS Day was observed each 1 December, by the organization throughout the reporting period, through press releases, theatre performance at schools and/or public readings in Aachen, Germany. In 2007, Misereor started a three year project to fight the negative consequences of climate change in the Global South. It can rightfully be said that throughout the reporting period Misereor made significant contributions to the promotion of all the Millennium Development Goals.

2. Gran Fraternidad Universal

(Special; 2000)

I. Introduction

The Gran Fraternidad Universal (GFU), also known as "Universal Great Brotherhood" and "Dr. Serge Raynaud de la Ferrière Foundation", is an international non-profit organization whose major goal is to promote a Culture of Peace. Since 1948, the GFU has worked in favor of the human development in several areas such as: education, health, culture, human rights, nutrition, environment, genre, science, and tolerance among others, through seminars, workshops, events, press media and other means. The non-political and non-religious organization has activities in 23 countries in North America, the Caribbean, South America, Europe and Australia.

II. Contribution of the Organization to the work of the United Nations

The Universal Great Brotherhood, during the present quadrennial (2004 – 2007), has continued its work in alignment with the United Nations goals and objectives for the Millennium. Our main activities during the last four years have been focused on preserving our planet and on poverty reduction, giving as a result a considerable growing amount of beneficiaries and a major expansion of our activities in the social and cultural development fields.

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

With the purpose of acquiring and diffusing information to our members in the 23 countries where we have representation, the GFU representatives attended and lobbied the following meetings and conferences: (i) Commission for Social Development, 45th Session, 7 to 16 February 2007 - New York: "Promoting full employment and decent work for all". This Conference helped to foment the need of dialogue, integration and sense of cooperation at all levels, to improve the quality of the services given to the community by our Organization; (ii) Commission for Social Development, 44th Session, 8 to 17 February 2006 - New York: "Review of the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty"; As a consequence of this Conference, the educational, health and nutritional services given by our members to the most needed communities were improved; (iii) Commission for Social Development, 43rd Session, 9 to 18 February 2005 - New York: "10-year review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Program of Action and the outcome of the 24th special session of the General Assembly". This Conference was fruitful to help us to be more aware of the urgent need of incorporating more young people in our Organization in order to increase the opportunities for their participation in social activities. Now we are preparing the next Children and Youth International Meeting for Peace, to be held in Mexico in September 2009; (iv) Commission for Social Development, 42nd Session, 4 to 13 February 2004 - New York: "Composition of the Bureau of the forty second session of the Commission for Social Development 2004"; (v) 60th Annual DPI/NGO Conference: "Climate Change: How It Impacts Us All", 5 -7 September 2007. We have been more aware of the responsibility to protect the environment and we have implemented some plans of action for such effect; (vi) 59th Annual DPI/NGO Conference: "Unfinished Business: Effective Partnerships for Human Security and Sustainable Development", 6-8 September 2006; (vii) 58th Annual DPI/NGO Conference "Our Challenge: Voices for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal", 7-9 September 2005; (viii) 57th Annual DPI/NGO Conference: "Millennium Development Goals: Civil Society Takes Action", 8-10 September 2004; (ix) The 59th, 58th, and 57th Conferences gave the Organization the opportunity to make known our main principles of Tolerance, Truth and Peace, based in compassion, wisdom and universal love, as the foundation for the realization of the MDGs. The Forty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), 1 to 12 March 2004 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York. This Conference helped us to encourage our Organization to continue working in one of the subjects of the program "The Science of Living": The Family Cell", where Women play an important role.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.

(i) Children and Youth International Meeting "A New Humanity Marching for Peace", organized and coordinated by GFU through cultural exchanges, arts exhibitions, workshops, inter-religious studies, etc. 1-23 September, 2006 in Herrera, Spain. Event organized in

cooperation with the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); (ii) Conference: "Developing a Peaceful Mindset" celebrating the International Peace Day, held on 21 September, 2006 Porto Alegre, Brazil. GFU experts lectured about the psychological and physiological benefits of the Yoga practice as a relaxation technique. Event organized in cooperation with the United Nations (UN).

iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

a) Activities in line with the MDGs accomplished between 2004 -2007

The organization has developed several programs, activities and services in the countries where we have representation (the numbers below reflect the beneficiaries).

Goal 1 - Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: Children fed and dressed =6391; Nutrition counseling and training = 2040; Newborn baby baskets = 488; Senior citizens fed and given medical assistance and rehabilitation services = 3761; Weekly lunches for children and adults = 1240.

Goal 2 - Achieve universal primary education: Elementary school free classes = 2250; Psychophysical exercises = 830; Art workshops and exhibitions = 1025; School supplies packets delivered = 1285; Teachers trained = 550; Cultural videos = 350.

Goal 3 - Promote gender equality and empower women: Psychophysical exercises and Yoga for women = 51,628; Preventive medicine and science of living for women = 240; Cultural and educational activities celebrating International Women and Peace Day= 400; Integral formation in cultural activities in art, craft, music, dance, theater, languages and martial arts = 800; School for parents = 377 ; Workshops on vegetarian cooking, formations of cooperatives and small business = 902; Classes for women to stimulate integral growth in physical and psychological well-being= 30; Conferences on the relationship between men and women = 1,200.

Goal 4 - Reduce child mortality: Prenatal and family health education = 187; Medical and nutritional consultations = 790; Workshops on early intervention, nutrition for babies and natural childbirth = 960.

Goal 5 - Improve maternal health: Conferences on science of living: health and family education = 30; Psychological orientation for women with psychophysical exercises = 2,843; Courses and workshops on nutrition and balanced diets, alternative therapies like: homeopathy, massage, reflexology etc. = 720; Medical consultations = 500; Treatments for early intervention before and after birth and breast feeding = 600; Women preparation for birth based on Yoga techniques: fertility counseling, breast feeding, child education from birth to puberty = 200.

Goal 6 - Combat Human Immunodeficiency Virus/ Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (HIV/AIDS), malaria, and other diseases: Conferences on preventive medicine, healthy loving partner relationships = 720; Workshops on prevention of sexually transmitted diseases and sexual responsibility in inner city communities = 350; Medical consultation = 540; Pilot program for HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C treated with alternative therapies like therapeutic plants, vitamins and relaxation techniques and self-esteem based on yoga therapy = 10; Fibromyalgia treated with herbal therapy and psychotherapy based on yoga techniques = 20; Homeless programs for food and preventive health and care = 400; Weekly talks, conferences and workshops on healthy lifestyle and physical, emotional and spiritual

development = 3,000; Psychophysical exercises and Yoga = 74,540; Psychophysical exercises for senior citizens = 90; Psychophysical exercises for psychiatric patients = 30.

Goal 7 - Ensure environmental sustainability: Walks and hikes to promote environmental protection and peace with conferences and videos = 1,323; Monthly workshops on practical ecology = 650; Andinism (hiking) to perform environmental, geological and climate studies = 180; Planted 8,500 trees in El Salvador and Australia benefiting hundreds of persons in rural communities; Workshops with children on environmental protection, recycling, energy conservation techniques = 600.

Activities in Support of Global Principles: (i) International Women's Day: Medellin, Colombia and Lima, Peru, 8 March 2006 and 2007, GFU Headquarters: Concerts, conferences on gender and equity, inmates visits. Hundreds of people were benefited; (ii) International Day of Peace: Conference: "The Peace of the Individual will be the Peace of the World" at GFU Headquarters (Porto Alegre, Brazil, 23 September 2006). Forum: "Integral Education for Peace" at the National Library (Caracas, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), 08 July 2005). "March for Peace". (DF- México, 21 September 2006). Hundreds of people were benefited by those activities; (iii) World Environment Day: Forum: "Ecology and Human Development" at The Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (Lima- Peru, 26-28 May 2005). Conference: "Deserts and Desertification" by Dr. Homero Silva, Environmental Health consultant from The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)/World Health Organization (WHO) at GFU Headquarters (Peru, 5 May 2006). Conference: "Biodiversity" at GFU Headquarters (Peru, 5 June 2007). Environmental Week Celebration, Universidad Nacional de Ucayali, 1st Regional Meeting about Renewable Energy sources "The Future is Biofuel" (Ucayali, Peru, 12 June 2006). March for Peace and Ecology at the National Park (Medellin, Colombia, 22 January 2006). Environment Week Celebration at GFU Headquarters (Porto Alegre, Brazil, 6 March 2006); (iv) International Literacy Day: Conference: "Literacy must start from the mother's womb". GFU Headquarters, (Asuncion, Paraguay, 8 September 2007); (v) Volunteer Day: Seminar: "Spiritual development through service and voluntarism" GFU Headquarters (Asunción, Paraguay, 5 December 2007); (vi) World Water Day: Special Award given to GFU by the State Hydraulics Council for its participation in the Project "Comités Técnicos del Agua Subterránea" (COTAS) or 'Technical Councils for Groundwater Management' in Spanish, on preserving water (Irapuatos, Mexico, 26 November 2006). Conference: "Water Preservation" (Medellin, Colombia and Lima Peru, 22 March 2007); (vii) World Museum Day: GFU dancing group artistic performance at the Archeology National Museum and National Institute of Culture Affairs (Lima, Peru, 23 May 2005); (viii) International Health Day: GFU Lecturers in the IV Traditional Medicine World Congress at the Traditional Medicine Research Center (Lima, Peru, 22 - 24 April 2005).

3. IUS PRIMI VIRI International Association

(Special; 2004)

I. Introduction

The main aim of the Association is to cooperate with democratic institutions to fully implement the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Its purposes are carried out through multidisciplinary integrated studies, research, meetings and conferences, courses for educators, civil servants, army forces, police forces, and teachers. The main fields of

intervention are: justice, education, health, environment, and the foundations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The Association pursues its aims through conferences and seminars, lectures, training and education courses in cooperation with both the main Italian universities and international institutions in order to transmit a didactic methodology, developed in more than 20 years of studies and research by Centre for Human Evolution Studies (CEU) experts, capable of bringing abstract principles into consciousness and behaviour.

In July 2007, it was decided to modify the By-laws in order to render them more democratic, while maintaining the Association's primary aims and purposes. A Study Group of experts was created to this end, and the new By-laws were approved at the end of April 2008 and officially registered in May.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Having obtained in July 2004 the Special Consultative Status with United Nations Economic and Social Council, the Association appointed representatives in New York, Geneva and Vienna in order to be fully entitled to participate in the work of United Nations.

In 2004 and 2005 IPV (IUS PRIMI VIRI) delegates participated with written statements and oral interventions, stressing the importance of Education and Human Rights Education, in the following meetings: (i) WSIS (World Summit on the Information Society) Second Phase – First Preparatory Committee (PrepCom), 24-26 June 2004, Yasmine Hammamet, Tunisia; (ii) Committee on the Rights of the Child Day of Discussion, 17 September 2004, Geneva, Switzerland, Written contribution "The rights of the Child"; (iii) Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action – Third Session, 11-22 October 2004, Geneva, Written contributions "An education fit for caring" and "Towards the humanization of labour";

WSIS Second Phase – Second PrepCom, 17-25 February 2005, Geneva: (i) United Nations Economic and Social Council Preparatory High Level Segment Round Table Discussion, 16-17 March 2005, New York; (ii) 61st Session of the Commission on Human Rights, 14 March-22 April 2005, Geneva. Written contribution "Human rights and the genetic drives of human beings"; (iii) 57th Session of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, 25 July – 12 August 2005, Geneva.

- WSIS Second Phase – Third PrepCom, September 2005, Geneva; World Summit in Tunis, November 2005. The audiovisual *"The Effects of TV on the Child's Brain"* was presented.

In 2006 the work to increase awareness of the importance of Human Rights Education went on with the International Meeting on "Education to Human Dignity", successfully organised in the Italian Senate in Rome together with the Italian Commission for UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) and the University of Rome Tor Vergata on 23 February 2006, with the participation of more than two hundred people. The final Declaration of this meeting was submitted on 5 July 2006 at the High Level Segment of the Substantive Session of ECOSOC (United Nations Economic and Social Council) held in Geneva from 3 to 28 July 2006.

On 15 September 2006 the paper "To educate in childhood to human dignity" was submitted to the Committee on the Rights of Child on the occasion of the Day of General Discussion in Geneva. Representatives of IPV participate in the work of the new Council for Human Rights, installed in Geneva, intervening in its debates always stressing the role of education.

In 2007 an IPV delegation participated in the Sixteenth Session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, 23-27 April 2007, as a speaker with a written and oral contribution.

On the occasion of the First Annual Ministerial Review, held during the High Level Segment of United Nations Economic and Social Council, 2-5 July 2007, IPV submitted a poster on "The power of dignity within human resources". The poster was based on the training and improving intervention made on 22 November 2006 in Riano Flaminio, a small town near Rome (Italy), upon invitation by its Mayor, for borough council clerks and municipal staff.

From 27-31 August 2007 IPV representatives participated in Geneva in the Organizational session for the Durban Review Conference on Racism to be held in April 2009 in Geneva, underlining the importance of education in this field.

UNESCO - The Association, which for a number of years has had informal relations with UNESCO, registered officially to cooperate in 2004. In the meanwhile the Association attended at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris the international meeting: *Freedom of Expression in Cyberspace, 3-4 February 2005, Paris;* and began to strengthen its relationship with the Italian National UNESCO Commission organising together the International Conference on "Education for Human Dignity" held on 23 February 2006 at the Italian Senate.

FAO – FAO (***Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations)*** already recognized Ius Primi Viri as an International Association, and invites regularly to participate and cooperate in its work. Representatives participated, on FAO request, in the *IGWG/RTFG meetings* (*Intergovernmental Working Group for the Elaboration of a Set of Voluntary Guidelines to Support the Progressive Realization of the Right to Adequate Food in the Context of National Food Security*), stressing the role of education.

TRAINING: In the same period the association continued to hold human right courses at different levels from schoolteachers to Police forces, Armed forces, lawyers and civil servants.

IPV activity could have been more intense, but, being a no-profit Association, financial difficulties hampered our work and, mainly, the participation in United Nations activities. We hope, however, with the changes recently occurred in the Association to improve our participation and contribution to United Nations in order to help the achievement of a better world for all.

4. Myochikai (Arigatou Foundation)

(Special; 2004)

Part I. Introduction

i. Aims and purposes of Myochikai (Arigatou Foundation) and main course of action

Myochikai (Arigatou Foundation) is an international NGO dedicated to securing the well-being and rights of children and advancing the culture of peace through interreligious dialogue and cooperative action. It provides a values-based platform for implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) by mobilizing faith-based initiatives for children in support of the United Nations commitment to child rights and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). In May 2000, in cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the organization established the Global Network of Religions for

Children (GNRC), the only worldwide interfaith network of religious leaders and development organizations exclusively devoted to the rights of the child. It also conducts international advocacy on child's rights and participates actively in various United Nations-related processes, for instance, by chairing the NGO Group for the CRC.

ii. Changes with significant impact

a) While the organization's aims and purposes remained the same in the period under review, minor amendments to the statutes of its Geneva office were approved by the General Assemblies held on 10 August 2004, 29 August 2006 and 15 May 2007, focusing the mandate on child rights, information flow from the United Nations, support of the GNRC regional work, peace and ethics education, and collaboration with other international organizations and NGOs in the field of child rights. The name of the office was changed in 2007 to Arigatou International.

b) In 2007, GNRC activities expanded into a seventh world region, North America.

Part II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i. Participation in the work of Economic and Social Council and its subsidiaries bodies and other United Nations meetings

During the reported period the organization, as the convener of the NGO Group on Education, Literacy and Media, and holding the presidency (2005 – 2007) of the NGO Group for the Convention on the Rights of the Child: (i) organized the Child Rights Caucus and helped develop agendas and resolutions in the area of child rights, the right to education and the United Nations Study on Violence against Children at the 60th, 61st and 62nd Sessions of the Human Rights Commission in Geneva, Switzerland (15 March – 23 April, 2004, 14 March – 22 April, 2005 and 13 March – 21 April, 2006) as well as the 1st - 6th Sessions of the Human Rights Council in Geneva (19-30 June, 2006, 18 September-6 October, 2006, 27 November-8 December, 2006, 12 -30 March, 2007, 11 – 18 June, 2007 and 10-18 September, 2007); (ii) organized a meeting during the 37th Session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (13 September – 8 October 2004) with Committee members to discuss implementation of the CRC. This initiative led to annual meetings of Committee members with the NGO Group for the CRC. In addition, representatives of the organization: (iii) made oral interventions during the Days of General Discussion organised in Geneva, Switzerland by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, at the 43rd session , 17 September 2004 on "Implementing Child Rights in Early Childhood," at the 44h session, 15 September 2005 on "Children Without Parental Care," at the 45th session, 16 September 2006 on "The Right of the Child to be Heard" and at the 46th session, 21 September 2007 on "Resources for the Rights of the Child"; (iv) participated in the Third and final Preparatory Committee for the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) in Geneva 19 – 30 September 2005 and co-signed a joint statement submitted to the Tunis Summit; (v) participated in the 60th Annual Department of Public Information/ NGO Conference "Climate Change, How It Impacts Us All" in New York 5 – 7 September 2007; (vi) attended the High-level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 4 October 2007; (vii) met personally with the United Nations Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General on 3 October 2007 to report progress on the ethics education initiative pledged in an oral address to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children in May 2002.

ii. Cooperation with United Nations bodies/specialized agencies in the field/Headquarters

Many of the organization's international programs are conducted in close collaboration with UNICEF, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and other agencies. Its major programs include: direct relief for children in difficult circumstances; mobilizing diverse religious communities to work together for child rights; and development of a UNESCO- and UNICEF-endorsed curriculum for ethics education in multicultural and interfaith settings. The organization funds GNRC regional initiatives for children initiated by GNRC member organizations in Africa, the Arab States, Central Asia, Europe, Israel, Latin America, North America, and South Asia. And, as pledged to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children in 2002, it funds the Interfaith Council on Ethics Education for Children, whose membership includes senior representatives from UNICEF.

In addition, during the reported period the organization: (i) signed a Program Cooperation Agreement with UNICEF on 19 May 2004 and embarked on a Joint Study Project called Children in World Religions (by 2007, held 3 meetings of religious scholars); (ii) from 2005 to 2007, worked in close cooperation with UNESCO and UNICEF to develop, field-test, publish in three languages, and globally launch *Learning to Live Together: An Intercultural and Interfaith Programme for Ethics Education*; (iii) Was granted formal consultative status with UNICEF in July 2007.

Moreover, representatives of the organization: (i) made an oral intervention at the Conference on Interfaith Cooperation and Peace, 22 June 2005, New York, organized by the Committee of Religious NGOs at the United Nations, UNESCO, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the World Bank, and others under the theme: "Enhancing Interfaith Dialogue and Cooperation Towards Peace in the 21st Century"; (ii) made a presentation at the UNICEF – Religions for Peace Conference on Mobilizing Religions to Address Violence against Children, held in Toledo, Spain, 9-11 May 2006 (also member of the advisory board for the development of follow up resource material); (iii) made a presentation on 28 June 2007 at a side event organized by the United Nations Population Fund on "Interfaith Education for Children and Youth" at the United Nations Headqurters, New York; (iv) organized a side-event on 12 December 2007 on "Quality and Ethics Education" together with UNESCO and UNICEF at the Commemorative High-Level Plenary Meeting devoted to follow-up to the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on Children, 11 – 12 December 2007, in New York.

iii. Initiatives undertaken in support of internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs

The organization not only made short-term, quantifiable contributions to specific Millennium Development Goals and corresponding key goals in the UNICEF Midterm Strategic Plan, but also carried out strategic educational and developmental interventions designed to contribute both immediately and in the long-term to several MDGs at once. This work took place in the following regions: Africa, Western Asia, Asia and Pacific, Europe, Latin America.

Goal 1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: Target 1c. Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. **Actions**: (i) Provided $100,000 (United States Dollar) funding to purchase and distribute nutrition kits for undernourished children in Palestine, and to provide 450 pairs of eyeglasses; (ii) Mobilized religious communities to work together to combat poverty by holding workshops, seminars and other GNRC events for 17,626 children

and 1,783 adults, focused on universal values such as dignity, respect for others, responsibility and sharing.

Goal 2 - Achieve universal primary education: Target 2a. Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling. **Actions:** (i) Provided training in using radio for rural education and peace for broadcasters, who then reached about 4 million children in East and Southern Africa with new programming; (ii) Used *Learning to Live Together* curriculum with 6,492 children in six world regions. *Learning* not only promotes education for all, but also includes a *quality education* component within MDG 2, to multiply the impact of universal education in realizing MDG 1; (iii) Provided $31,160 (USD) in funds for development and implementation of Arab/Israeli bicultural/bilingual primary school curriculum by Neve Shalom/ Wahat al-Salam; (iv) Provided $10,000 (USD) to fund summer education program for Palestinian children.

Goal 3 - Promote gender equality and empower women: Target 3a. Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015. **Actions**: (i) In the first year of UNICEF's Education for the Female Child Project in Tajikistan (2005), enabled the return of 644 children (including 355 girls) out of the 2,251 children who had left school ($300,000 (USD) in assistance provided over three years); (ii) Included girls and boys as equal participants with adults in all GNRC events, giving them an equal voice in dialogue and decision-making.

Goal 4 - Reduce child mortality: Target 4a: Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five. **Actions**: (i) Provided a total of $493,646.33 USD in emergency aid, primarily through the Japan Committee for UNICEF, and UNHCR Japan, focused on increasing child survival after natural disasters in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Sudan, Sumatra, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, and El Salvador.

5. Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries

(Special; 2000)

Part I. Introduction: Nature and Objectives

Society of Catholic Medical Missionaries (SCMM) and Associates (also known as Medical Mission Sisters) are members of an international organization consisting of members from twenty-two nationalities. The members are engaged in eighteen nations on five continents. Its members are committed to promote health, healing and wholeness through a comprehensive approach to community-based preventive health care and development projects, and complementary health programs.

In the pursuit of justice necessary for the health of the whole community of life and in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, its members engage in a variety of works from grassroots communities to policy-making bodies. The members work together with like-minded people to gain access to the basic necessities of life, to facilitate individuals and groups, particularly women, to reach their full potential. The organization works to promote justice and effect systemic change; to promote sustainable development; and to respect and restore the integrity of Earth's ecological systems. In the year 2005 the organization decided to focus on three particular areas, namely health, care of the environment and developing a culture of peace (interculturality). With this end in view representatives are actively engaging in the following areas; that is, Financing for Development (FFD), Commission on

Sustainable Development (CSD), Commission on Status of Women (CSW), UNAIDS, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), Migration and Development and Commission for Social Development. For this the organization designated one main representative plus three for New York meetings, one for Geneva and one for Addis Ababa. We have withdrawn from Brazil and Malawi; current membership is 603.

Part II. Contributions of the organization to the work of the United Nations

2004 Activities: During the year SCMM actively participated in New York in Commission for Social Development, 42nd Session, 4-13 February; CSW 48th Session, 1-12 March; CSD Session 12, 14-30 April; Special High-Level meeting of the ECOSOC with Bretton Woods Institutions (BWIs) and World Trade Organization, April 26th. Detailed reports of all the major events attended at the United Nations were published in the newsletter of the organization and disseminated among membership and partners. The organization co-signed 3 NGO Statements, one for Commission for Social Development on 'Improving public-sector effectiveness' and Joint Civil Society Statement on the Global Compact and Corporate Accountability, Statement of Concern of Civil Society Group on Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation. Presentations and information sessions were made to other NGOs and members of the organization on FFD in New York and Philadelphia.

2005 Activities: Representatives participated in New York in Commission for Social Development, 43rd Session, 9-18 February; Intergovernmental Preparatory meeting of CSD-13, 28 February - 4 March; CSW 49th Session, 28February - 11March; Preparatory Meeting for ECOSOC 2005 High-level Segment, 16 – 17 March; CSD 13, April 11-22; 2005 Special High-level Meeting of ECOSOC with Bretton Woods institutions, WTO and United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) 18April. The main representative participated in Round Table B on 'Policies and Strategies'. The representative was also a speaker for the following: a side event on "Towards Prosperity: the need for resource mobilization to achieve the MDGs", 22 April; Update on Progress of Civil Society Involvement with UNAIDS, 1 - 2 June; participant and speaker at the General Assembly Hearing 23 June for World Summit in September 2005 on FFD and Goal 8 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 23 – 24 June; speaker at the Side event 'From Freedom from Want to Freedom to live in Dignity: The need to achieve the MDGs' 23 June, organized by MDG Global Watch. A written contribution was made to the report of the Secretary General on Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Joined United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia for the celebration of 60th Birthday of the United Nations and also participated in the 60th birthday celebration of the United Nations at the Headquarters. The main representative engaged in lobbying work with the delegates of Mexico, Jamaica, Sri Lanka and with the President of European Union. 10 NGO documents for the Commission for Social Development and CSW were endorsed by the organization on the priority theme. In addition 4 letters to the Secretary General and President of the General Assembly were also signed. During the year 15 presentations were made on FFD to various groups. Our representative from Addis Ababa attended the Peace Forum on "Fostering sustainable Peace in Eastern Africa, The Great lakes Region and the Horn of Africa, 21-23 September and the representative of Geneva attended the World Health Assembly 16-24 May, Geneva as an observer of the World Council of Churches.

2006 Activities: Representatives in New York attended 44th session of Commission for Social Development, 8-17 February; 50th session of CSW, 27 February-10 March; Economic and Social Council Special High-level meeting with Bretton Woods institutions, World Trade

Organization and UNCTAD April 24; CSD-16, 1 – 12 May. The main representative was one of the 12 Civil Society Spokespersons for 2006 High-Level Meeting on AIDS: Uniting the world against AIDS, 31 May - 2 June, speaking on 'Trade & HIV'. Input on United Nations, FFD, HIV/AIDS and MDGS was given in different parts of India during July-August. Held a session on Migration and Development in Philadelphia, members present were 12, on 27 October. An NGO Statement was submitted on Commission for Social Development 41st Session on 'On Poverty Eradication and Trade' along with another organization. The representative attended a reception to honour Kofi Annan along with 98 other organizations. In all 19 presentations were made by the representative in the areas of engagement at the United Nations to various groups. In addition the representative was the NGO Speaker on 'Monterrey Consensus and the United Nation's Development Agenda' during the DPI briefing on 23 March.

2007 Activities: The representative attended in New York Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (IPM) 26 February - 2 March; Economic and Social Council Annual Ministerial Review meeting 2 April; 51st session of CSW, 26 February – 9 March; Special High-level meeting of Council with Bretton Woods institutions, World Trade Organizations and UNCTAD 16 April. CSD 15, 30 April – 11 May. The representative was one of the Civil Society Spokespersons at the Informal Interactive Dialogue of the High Level Dialogue on FFD, 24 October 2007; a participant of Round Table 5 on External Debt of General Assembly High-level Dialogue on FFD; a speaker for a Panel discussion on "Towards Accra 2008: Promoting Civil Society participation in Aid Effectiveness", 23 October 2007; attended High Level Dialogue and Informal Interactive Hearing with Civil Society on Inter-religious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace, 4–5 October; attended commemorative High-level Plenary Meeting devoted to the follow-up session on Children, 11-12 December; and made a panel presentation on the theme 'Eradication of Poverty and Hunger through Global Partnership for Development' at Paramaribo Civil Society Forum, Suriname, 2 May. The representative was a panelist on FFD Workshop at Civil Society Development Forum 2007, Geneva, 29 June. An Action Session on FFD was held at International Women's Peace Colloquium at Barry University, Florida, United States of America, 14 July. During the year, 9 NGO statements to Secretary General, World Bank, and on Trade, Promotion of Full employment, ending discrimination against women and girls, for Commission for Social Development were signed. Two articles were published: the Presentation made in Suriname 'Eradication of Hunger and Poverty through Partnership for Development' published by *MDG Global Watch*, Vol.2, Issue 3, 2007, and 'International Trade and Millennium Development Goals' in MDG Global Watch, Volume 1, Issue 2 Fall/Winter, 2006 issue. A web site for United Nations activity was established: **www.un-mms.org.**

A panel presentation was made on 'Climate change and the MDGs', 14 September 2007 in the United Nations. Reports of United Nations' meetings were published in various newsletters of the Society. The main representative was the chair of the NGO Committee on FFD for 4 years. Representatives are active members of the Conference of NGO (CONGO) Committees on FFD, Commission for Social Development, HIV/AIDS, Migration and Development, and CSW.

Documents and Publications: An article on 'Making Water Accessible: Action by Medical Mission Sisters' was published in 'Weaving the Connections", Winter 2004-2005 Issue. The following publications were made both at International and National newsletter of the Organization: InterContinent: 1; MMS and the United Nations: 25; District Link: 14; Hotline: 38; Justice Jottings: 5; Medical Mission Sisters News: 2.

Initiatives undertaken in support of the Millennium Development Goals:

Goal 1 Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger: On 16 October 2005 about 75 worshipers gathered at the Sunday liturgy, they were briefed about the MDGs and brochures were distributed to the group. Spoke about MDGs to a group of 20 in Philadelphia, United States of America. Held a 'Stand Up Against Poverty Event of Millennium Campaign' in Philadelphia, 17 October 2007, with 77 participants in attendance. Multipurpose Cooperative Society and Self Help Groups (SHGs) for 2000 farmers. Nutrition to children given, one meal a day – 3600.

Goal 2 Achieve universal primary education: Through non-formal school – 500 children. Note books and slates supplied to 550 children. A school was built.

Goal 3 Promote gender equality and empower women: Helped set up 100 SHGs.

Goal 5 Improve maternal health: Prenatal and postnatal care to mothers 12,600, health workers trained 12.

Goal 6 Combat HIV/AIDS: Awareness education given in schools to 2500 students, 240 teachers and 225 village leaders. Members held AIDS Awareness Rally to awaken solidarity with HIV/AIDS persons and to build up community leadership in combating HIV/AIDS.